

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

Issued Monthly

2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199
Federal Market News Service
21 North 1st Ave., Suite 224
Yakima, WA 98902
Phone: 509-575-8615 FAX: 509-575-5648

Vol. XXII - Number 4

For subscription information, please call 1-800-487-8796

Thursday, May 15, 2003

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2003
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

ARKANSAS	- Soybean, light amber, \$1.34
CALIFORNIA	- Alfalfa, light amber, \$1.30 (small lot) - Alfalfa/Buckwheat, extra light amber, \$1.35 (small lot) - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.30-1.45 (higher price, previous commitment)
<u>NEW CROP</u>	- Orange Blossom, white, \$1.45 - 1.50
COLORADO	- Alfalfa, extra light amber, \$1.46
FLORIDA	<u>NEW</u> - Gallberry, extra light amber, \$1.50 <u>CROP</u> - Gallberry, cut comb, \$1.50 (small lots) - Orange Blossom, white, \$1.50 - Orange Blossom, extra light amber, (\$1.50) - Mixed Wildflowers, extra light amber, \$1.45
IDAHO	- Clover, light amber, \$1.40
MINNESOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.60
MONTANA	- Clover, white, \$1.56 - 1.59
OREGON	- Clover, light amber, \$1.40
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.56 1/2
TEXAS	- Chinese Tallow, light amber, \$1.40
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, \$1.48 - \$1.75

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

QUEBEC - Canola, white. \$1.15

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....ARGENTINA - Clover, white, \$1.75
CHINA - Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.10 - 1.25
INDIA - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.22
MALAYSIA - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.20
MEXICO - Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.45
URUGUAY - Mixed Flowers, white. \$1.50
VIETNAM - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.27
 - Mixed Flowers, light amber, \$1.37

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MAY

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) §§§

Still more moisture, that's the theme this spring. April showers certainly brought on the flowers and mixed with days of varying temperatures and cool nights resulting in an extended bloom in the fruit orchards and spring flowerings trees. During mid-month the temperature dropped to the low to mid-thirties; however, damage to buds was reported as minimal. Pollinators were able to find bees to fulfill contract obligations and get them into orchards in time for bloom. Many fruit growers are reporting that fruit set was down due to rainy and breezy weather during the bloom period resulting from low flight activity. Most apples varieties are past bloom in most areas with the exception of the Red Romes, which are currently in full bloom in the northern part of the District. Field planting has been delayed by 1-2 weeks due to high soil moisture levels. Beekeepers are still mentioning the heavy colony losses; however, most have purchased replacement bees or have split healthy colonies. The bees are reported to be in generally good health and are beginning to build up colony numbers. Locust is just beginning to bloom in the southern part of the District.

CALIFORNIA §§§

April began with a cold front that spread rain and cool temperatures across the State. There were widespread thunderstorms across the Central Valley and snow in the Northern Mountains. San Luis Obispo reported a daily-record low of 36 degrees on the 5th, just six days after a record high of 84 degrees. The rains continued with daily record totals of 1.31" in San Francisco and .79" in Sacramento on the 12th. San Francisco already exceeded it's normal April precipitation of 1.18". The Sierra Nevada Mountains also received another 3 feet of snow. Heavy precipitation fell across the State the 3rd week of April, especially in Southern California. On the 13th, San Francisco notched a second consecutive daily-record rainfall, boosting its April 13th & 13th total to 1.76". Farther Inland, storms provided a late-season boost to mountain snow packs. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the Sierra Nevada snow pack gained about 4" of water equivalent, climbing from 20" (about 70% of normal) the end of March to approximately 24" (94%) three weeks later. Sunny, dry days finally arrived, but only from the 17-20th. Cool, showery weather finished the month with temperatures as much as 12 degrees below normal. Stockton set a daily-record low on the 26th when they dropped down to 39 degrees. During April, California rainfall totaled 2.84" (384% of normal) in Fresno and 1.19" (277%) in Bakersfield with temperatures generally 2-6 degrees below normal.

CALIFORNIA continued

Beekeepers were busy during April moving bees out of the oranges, cherries and apples. The orange crop is already predicted to be about 50% of normal because of the cool, rainy weather. Those bees that were moved to the sage along the Central Coast were doing very well as the frequent rains kept the plants blooming. Beekeepers reported the bees were filling up supers with sage honey.

Packers noted that supplies of bulk honey are limited. The old crop is pretty much gone and with a short orange crop, there won't be a lot of the new crop for a while.

Offerings of wax was very slow as producers are very busy this time of year moving bees in and out of various pollination crops. Demand for wax continues to be very light.

IDAHO §§§

Many of the local Idaho apiaries that had their bees in Washington in the apple blooms have moved them back into local areas. Some apiaries are utilizing other areas in the Rocky Mountain area for floral sources during the Spring and Summer such as Montana and the Dakotas, where chemical spray is less of a problem and honey production and quality is better. Moisture conditions have improved from much needed rain falling lately. Beekeepers anticipate good production this coming season with improved moisture conditions. Some Idaho apiaries are utilizing pollen sources such as purple sage and dandelion until field crops such as sugar beets, carrots, and alfalfa mature. Cold weather conditions have kept bees from getting out and most beekeepers are feeding syrup at this time.

Weather conditions across the nation from Florida frosts through the tornados of the Mid-West and the cold of the Rockies will limit production is the consensus of some Idaho beekeepers. Apiaries report supply is limited until new crop extraction begins in July. It has been reported that members of one large Co-op expect to receive \$1.50-1.55 per pound for honey on their final yearly settlement this season, due in July.

ILLINOIS §§§

The weather for the month of April varied dramatically from record to near record high temperatures over most of the State. Unseasonably high temperatures were reported from the first of April to mid-month while more seasonally cool temperatures ended the month. The western and northern sections experienced below normal over wintering snowfall and lack of spring rains. However, late in the month, rainfall from ½" to over 3" was reported in those areas. The central and southern sections also experienced frequent rainfall, which hampered delivery of hives for pollination in some fruit orchards. Beekeepers reported a good honey flow in most orchards.

Honeybees in northern sections have been working mostly dandelions due to dry and cool weather. The dandelion honey flow was reported poor in these areas due to the dry conditions. Honeybees were also working floral sources of tulips, Bradford Pears, Cherries and Peaches.

The spring activities of honey collection and general farm planting over the state was reported two weeks earlier than the normal start of farm activities.

Honey sales and the movement of wax were reported to be good. Retail demand was also very good.

INDIANA §§§

The main activities of beekeepers was moving and preparing hives for moving into orchards. This was noted as two or three weeks ahead of a normal spring. Beekeepers were re-queening and adding package bees as over wintering kill was not as bad as expected in many colonies. Some beekeepers were adding packages to weak colonies while other colonies were 100% destroyed by mites. The State Apiary Inspector has been stressing the need and importance of calling the State office to inspect incoming hives from neighboring states for orchard and vegetable crop pollination.

Honeybees have been working red bud, dandelion, forsythia, dogwood, some early wildflowers and fruit trees. Early inspection of colonies by beekeepers brings reports of a pollen and nectar flow collection better than in past years. Temperatures of normal or above normal without the high winds aided in a heavy collection. Rainfall over the State for the month had been adequate to surplus in the extreme southern section of Indiana.

Bulk honey movement was good as retail sales were driving the demand for honey. .

MISSISSIPPI §§§

Colonies around the state were in good condition. Hive populations were generally close to full strength. In all sections of the state bees were actively gathering nectar and pollen. In the northern portion of the state sources of food were tulip-poplar trees, privet hedge, white clover, rattan vine and vetch. In the southern portion of the state pollen and nectar sources included privet hedge and gallberry. For the month beekeepers reported moisture conditions wetter than normal in the northern portion of the state but drier than normal in the southern portion of the state. By the end of the month the spring honey flow had started throughout the state but was further along in the more southern portions of the state.

MONTANA §§§

The first couple of weeks in April were mostly warm and dry. Daily-record highs were set on the 12th when locations in the east reported 83 degrees. While the east was warm, parts of Central Montana received as much as 2" or rain the week of the 14th. The month ended with significant precipitation in the North-Central region while the rest of the state reported above average moisture. Daytime highs were in the mid-60's and 70's and nighttime lows were in the upper 20's to low 30's. Topsoil moisture levels ended the month at 22% short and 66% adequate compared to 34% short and 45% adequate the same time last year. The States snow pack is near normal because of the above average precipitation during March and April.

Migratory beekeepers have most of their bees back in Montana as they finished pollinating fruit trees in Washington State. Some came back very light so feed had to be added right away. They build back up rapidly and supers were now being put on as they brought in pollen and nectar from dandelions, plums and wildflowers. Seasonal beekeepers had enough days with good weather to get their packages and queens in the hives.

NEW ENGLAND §§§

Over New England the loss of bees has been tremendous. Even the mild Cape Cod area is installing an estimated 400 packages and nucs (nucleuses) alone. Getting delivery of ordered packages from southern states has been difficult at best due to the inclement weather and back orders for so many losses.

With the onset of warmer weather, the bees are bringing in a great deal of nectar and pollen. Currently the blossoms over the greater portion of New England are maples, skunk cabbage, willows, cherries, magnolias, and dandelions.

Generally area beekeepers will be raising their honey prices if they have not already done so to keep pace with the demand of the market.

NORTH CAROLINA §§§

April showers may top the record for the state of North Carolina. After four dry springs, the rain and snow has been a welcome relief, but has also created some challenges. There has been flooding and erosion in parts of the state. Also, wet fields have delayed planting corn and Irish potatoes and transplanting of tobacco and caused some diseases in small grains. The western part of the state received a heavy spring snowfall the early part of April. The upside to the weather is the reservoirs are full, rivers, streams and groundwater are finally returning to normal levels. It is too early to tell how the honey flow is due to the stormy weather, but the wet weather will be good for the summer flow. The winter losses were heavier than normal, but seem to be recovering well. The spring honey flow coming in may need to be reinvested to the bees, rather than harvesting. The Tulip Poplar peak is just finishing up in the eastern part of the state and just beginning to peak in the western part.

OHIO §§§

Colonies and hives have made quick rebound from the harsh winter. Good nectar and pollen flow reported across the state.

Food sources are abundant and the bees are taking quick advantage. Many hives have been building queen cells in preparation for swarming, as hive populations are very healthy. Mites and other parasites have not been a problem, though that is to be expected following last winters losses.

OREGON §§§

The month began with cool temperatures and rain. Precipitation along the coast and the Willamette Valley ranged from .14 to over 3" above normal, with temperatures as much as 4 degrees below normal. Heavy rains were also reported in Portland, tying a 1958 record. The precipitation continued into the 2nd week in April but temperatures rose to as much as 8 degrees above normal. The cool, rainy weather returned to finish the month with snow also reported in Southern and Northeastern Oregon. The Willamette Valley Weather stations reported growing degree days ranged from 15-22 days below normal.

The cool, sometimes windy weather sometimes delayed fieldwork but should be very beneficial to the clover and alfalfa later on. A few fruit trees were still blooming the end of the month but some areas experienced poor fruit pollination due to low bee activity and the cool, wet, windy weather. Some bees were reported to be very hungry coming out of the orchards and supplemental feed was immediately added. Many were then placed near crimson clover and supers were already being added.

UTAH §§§

Moisture conditions were sharply improved in April from the frequent rains. Prospects for the summer honey flow are much improved from the outlook of a month ago. Some bees were coming back from California pollination.

Packers report no domestic honey is available for purchase. Some packers are looking at possible foreign purchases if available before new crop honey is available in late July. Demand at retail has slowed with the higher prices.

WASHINGTON §§§

In Western Washington, any concerns about a dry winter were eliminated during April, as at least a little rain was a daily occurrence. Temperatures were also cool, especially the first and last week of April when some areas were as much as 6 degrees below normal. The first part of the month, rain showers were sometimes accompanied by hail and snow in the higher elevations. Temperatures began to warm slightly the third week of April bringing out the blooms in fruit trees and spring flowers. Despite the rain and cool temperatures, the bees are reported to be in fairly good condition. By the end of the month, they were bringing in abundant supplies of nectar and pollen from maple trees, early huckleberries and blueberries. Supers were being put on.

In Eastern Washington, a wet March and near-normal April improved irrigation water supplies to 98%, much better than the earlier prediction of 71%. Snow pack in the mountains also improved to 91%. Some locations in the North-Central set daily precipitation records on the 24th when they received from .83 to 1.19" of rain. While the rain and snow was good for irrigation water, it wasn't always the best for pollination as most tree fruits were blooming during the month along with some seed crops. Bees were being removed from fruit orchards the end of the month and some came out hungry so feed was put in. The colonies did come out fairly large so in some cases, splits were made while others were evened out before new queens were added. A few hives have already been moved to Montana where they will remain for the summer.

WISCONSIN §§§

Temperatures for the month of April were slightly below normal with most of the State receiving ample rainfall. Beekeepers reported that spring treatments were wrapped up the first of the month. Some colonies were found with heavy infestations of mites, mostly in untreated colonies. Beekeepers were busy adding package bees and re-queening weak colonies before moving their hives into fruit tree orchards. A few beekeepers reported pollen collection was better than last year. Honeybees seem to be in good condition heading into spring.

Bulk honey sales were good as was the case of retail sales.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	<u>FEBRUARY 2002</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE		
	QUANTITY	VALUE		
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
COMB HONEY & HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
United Kingdom	816	3,000	816	3,000
Netherlands	1,009	3,665	1,009	3,665
Germany	---	---	1,824	5,507
Kuwait	---	---	25,104	70,424
Saudi Arabia	69,672	103,637	79,775	127,353
Arab Emirates	54,061	70,913	54,061	70,913
Malaysia	7,385	9,686	7,385	9,686
Philippines	---	---	7,666	20,360
China	---	---	826	2,860
Korean Republic	113,668	149,100	113,668	149,100
Hong Kong	1,588	6,725	3,493	15,395
Taiwan	3,035	8,879	3,035	8,879
Japan	34,438	45,171	34,438	45,171
TOTAL	285,672	400,776	333,100	532,313

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Canada	25,980	50,171	83,520	167,406
Bermuda	811	4,063	811	4,063
Bahamas	---	---	2,318	11,376
Barbados	2,322	8,712	2,322	8,712
Aruba	830	3,200	830	3,200
Indonesia	16,819	45,720	16,819	45,720
China	5,258	13,469	5,258	13,469
Korean Republic	---	---	10,987	23,140
Japan	---	---	15,876	45,619
TOTAL	52,020	125,335	138,741	322,705

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE				
Costa Rica	---	---	18,600	31,620
Indonesia	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200
TOTAL	37,200	37,200	55,800	68,820

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	<u>FEBRUARY 2002</u>			<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>		
	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.
	QUANTITY	VALUE	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE	VALUE
	kilograms	dollars	dollars	kilograms	dollars	dollars
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE						
Canada	690,879	2,326,752	2,343,769	1,109,846	3,778,044	3,804,694
Mexico	32,118	90,027	92,048	32,118	90,027	92,048
Chile	511,846	1,286,984	1,334,136	628,989	1,585,907	1,643,545
Brazil	211,109	518,547	545,980	519,124	1,256,004	1,331,991
Argentina	195,624	447,232	468,618	564,337	1,293,071	1,350,464

IMPORTS continued

COUNTRY	FEBRUARY 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
United Kingdom	2,609	7,840	8,118	5,326	15,582	16,145
Czech Republic	---	---	---	31,070	82,236	86,636
Russia	---	---	---	348	2,018	2,305
Ukraine	---	---	---	16,128	28,868	31,851
Romania	29,514	78,423	82,346	48,274	125,122	131,783
Turkey	---	---	---	36,000	74,000	77,400
Vietnam	75,400	163,605	174,207	75,400	163,605	174,207
China, Mainland	186,552	174,341	182,556	186,552	174,341	182,556
TOTAL	1,935,651	5,093,751	8,231,778	3,253,512	8,668,925	8,925,625

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	3,354	11,016	11,033	15,107	45,996	46,213
Mexico	11,425	31,369	32,548	50,347	134,323	137,598
Chile	38,551	99,843	103,827	110,706	282,787	294,898
Brazil	95,320	215,479	225,818	154,950	305,858	320,110
Uruguay	39,688	99,358	101,743	39,688	99,356	101,743
Argentina	---	---	---	43,128	104,688	109,097
Austria	460	3,507	3,574	460	3,507	3,574
Turkey	40,776	85,825	90,141	40,776	85,825	90,141
India	130,200	268,985	281,275	130,200	268,985	281,275
China	98,600	---	---	18,000	54,660	57,160
Australia	---	110,751	118,267	197,880	252,174	271,154
TOTAL	518,374	1,015,059	1,063,614	801,962	1,651,664	1,725,424

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- LIGHT AMBER

Canada	---	---	---	12,156	38,361	38,557
Mexico	169,919	404,945	414,732	274,729	665,636	681,248
Dom. Republic	898	2,640	2,736	898	2,640	2,736
Peru	133,413	304,981	317,556	277,775	568,057	594,995
Chile	356,666	888,380	914,255	395,493	983,948	1,013,178
Brazil	270,931	635,996	678,306	684,568	1,606,626	1,679,487
Uruguay	387,136	939,238	967,391	427,576	1,024,769	1,056,011
Argentina	39,780	89,953	93,868	82,362	198,618	206,753
Denmark	12,096	51,710	55,560	12,096	51,710	55,560
France	1,040	4,420	4,634	1,040	4,420	4,634
Germany	13,378	38,461	68,461	43,875	113,768	150,844
Ukraine	---	---	---	74,304	161,943	172,078
Moldova	35,663	75,962	77,696	71,454	149,144	155,178
Romania	113,544	166,863	278,459	226,364	547,708	571,393
Bulgaria	56,550	121,584	130,977	151,290	319,548	344,669
Turkey	94,934	220,687	233,578	509,324	1,145,743	1,228,630
India	20,000	35,700	38,399	129,860	232,981	258,030
Thailand	52,200	126,324	131,456	52,200	126,324	131,456
Vietnam	36,000	78,700	85,700	274,750	522,143	558,681
Malaysia	108,000	147,078	160,591	144,000	194,526	212,791
China	546,122	833,327	900,315	821,118	1,195,129	1,281,334
TOTAL	2,448,270	5,266,949	5,554,670	4,686,317	9,891,932	10,439,589

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED

Canada	2,394	6,972	7,026	22,216	53,269	54,323
Mexico	181,245	418,387	419,837	223,090	505,528	507,578
Dom. Republic	2,808	5,000	5,383	14,148	25,000	26,258
Brazil	42,092	90,512	94,910	216,535	517,033	534,717
Uruguay	---	---	---	19,630	46,462	47,054
Argentina	---	---	---	10,198	31,881	33,387
France	861	4,285	4,497	861	4,285	4,497
Austria	1,067	6,535	7,759	2,520	15,437	17,560
Switzerland	1,176	8,498	8,883	2,936	20,886	21,621
Ukraine	---	---	---	5,046	8,075	9,140
Italy	330	3,380	3,683	330	3,380	3,683
Taiwan	19,865	17,467	19,924	20,945	19,972	22,526
<hr/>						
TOTAL	251,838	561,036	571,902	538,455	1,251,208	1,282,344

SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS BUREAU; FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS